Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraphs **[0021]** and **[0022]** with the following amended paragraphs:

[0021] U.S. Pat. No. 6,367,609 and U.S. Pat. No. 6,223,880 both to Caspi *et al.* describe a conveyor system with the aim of changing the direction of media to be processed to divert it into an inspection or processing apparatus where the media is constrained using a vacuum chuck or similar means. The ~~patent addresses~~ patents address the issue of transporting and handling of flat media on a production line for the purposes of processing or inspection. However, the patent does not address the required complexity and precision requirements and the associated cost implications of the inspection/processing station. This is one of the primary objects of the present invention. Also, the described conveyor apparatus uses primarily belt driven actuation for transporting the media.

[0022] U.S. Pat. No. 4,730,526 to ~~Pearl *et al.*,~~ Pearl *et al.* describes a conveyor system for supporting and transporting sheet media for the purposes of processing of the sheet media. The invention discloses a vacuum constraining mechanism with distributed vacuum pads distributed among the conveyor so that vacuum constraint happens together with the transportation and possible processing of the sheet media. The invention is especially useful for tooling applications such as cutting and is not applicable to the present application domain because of differing precision requirements.

Please replace paragraphs **[0037]** and **[0038]** with the following amended paragraphs:

[0037] Figure 3A is a top view of a ~~simplified~~ simplified, prior art inspection system for large area flat media.

[0038] Figure 3B is a side view of a ~~simplified~~ simplified, prior art inspection system for large area flat media.

Please replace paragraph **[0065]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0065] An embodiment of the invention comprises two vacuum contact assemblies 426 and 428 incorporated within the up-web and down-web sections (one vacuum contact per section) of the stage and placed specifically in the middle of the x-axis span of these sections. The vacuum contact assembly for one of the air tables is illustrated in Figures 6A and 6B. In the embodiment illustrated in Figures 6A and 6B, the vacuum contact assembly for the other air table is identical and is placed symmetrically in the other air table. The vacuum contact 610 is mounted on guiding beam 612 and moves along the beams in the y-direction. The support and linear motion of the contact is achieved by means of magnetically preloaded air bearings 614, linear servo motors 616, and associated linear encoders. At one end, the guiding beam is precision mounted to the granite base, which forms the precision mid-web section. Additionally, the beam is supported either continuously or at multiple points along the air table by the welded steel base frame. The beams themselves are typically made from either granite or extruded aluminum. In cases in which the beam is made from aluminum, the beam surfaces that interact with the air bearings are polished and hard anodized.